



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release No. 02-35

Date:
Aug. 1, 2002

Contact:
Duane Meier/Nola Conway

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps releases final Dredged Material Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement on lower Snake River and McNary reservoirs

Walla Walla, Wash. - The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers officials began release and distribution of the final report on a long-term Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement on lower Snake River and McNary reservoirs this week.

The Corps' Walla Walla District prepared the 20-year plan for managing dredged material removed from the four reservoirs behind dams on the lower Snake River (Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite) and McNary reservoir on the Columbia River.

The recommended alternative is a combination of maintenance dredging, levee raising and a beneficial use of dredged materials.

The Corps maintains a 14- foot deep and 250- foot wide navigation channel through these reservoirs which has historically required some level of dredging. These reservoirs are part of an inland navigation system that provides slackwater navigation from the mouth of the Columbia River near Astoria, Oregon, to port facilities on the Snake and Clearwater rivers in Clarkston, Wash., and Lewiston, Idaho.

-MORE-

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876
Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824 CELL (509) 520-1468
Web site: www.nwww.usace.army.mil E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil

CORPS REPORT/2-2-2

The Corps, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, developed the long-range plan for the maintenance of the navigation channel. Maintaining the reservoir above Lower Granite Dam in the Clarkston-Lewiston area included evaluation of the flow conveyance capacity due to the increasing sedimentation in the river. The Corps is proposing raising some levees to maintain recommended capacity. "Extensive coordination would be completed before this work could begin," said Jack Sands, project manager.

The Corps' first dredging activity is currently proposed for winter 2002-2003 and includes dredging the navigation channel at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater rivers, several port facilities in the Lewiston-Clarkston area, several recreation facilities in Lower Granite and Little Goose reservoirs, navigation lock approaches to Lower Granite and Lower Monumental Dams, and other areas.

The Corps is proposing to use the dredged material to develop woody riparian habitat at the Chief Timothy Habitat Management Unit, located on the Snake River near Clarkston, Wash., and/or using in-water disposal to create fish habitat in Lower Granite reservoir.

"This beneficial use would create shoreline habitat in line with the goals of the Lower Snake River Fish and Wildlife Compensation Plan," said Sands. "Opportunities to use dredged material cannot always be anticipated, a process to continue the environmental coordination will go on through the next 20 years."

The Corps plans to prepare and sign a record of decision later this year.

For more information on the Corps' Dredged Material Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, visit <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/dmmp>.